Camp near Brandy Station Virginia
Monday January 25th 1864

My Kind friend Miss Deborah!

Last Friday, the 22d I had the pleasure to Receive your Valuable Letter. I felt very Anxious on account not having heard of you So long — thought Something had happend what may prevent you from Writing. But as Soon as I was favored again by your Letter of the 19th — My heart grew light — My Mind Clear — and my Conscience free and easy.

Your last Letter of the 22d I Received This afternoon and read it with great pleasure and Joy — I thank you very Kindly for having paied your attention in behalf of me about the Box —. I Thank Mrs Weston for her favor to me — and for the happiness She make me when the Box come in my Sight — more when I open it and take the different things out — on taking off the Cover The Sweet Smell pressing through my Nose to the Stomach it will be quite different — from opning a hard tack Box —

I see that Mary burnt the first as I may guess my Letter – Why does she burn it? ——. I suppose it is done by a mistake – I should have like to get my gray Kersaw Hat to use this Summer here in the Sunny South – I shall have to go without it now – on account of her burning Business – please give her my love – I shall be glad to hear from her. The Postage Stamps I have received – I am sorry I can not send her the Yarmouth Herald which She wishes me to send to her – I read it so much that there is nothing left of it – My Fellow Soldiers helping me too – So that paper is going up – but the next one I Recieve – I will send to her as soon as I can –. I both notice in your Letter that Mr Willis is dead I am very sorry – He was a true and good old Gentleman, a nice Neighbor. I liked him very much He reached a high age up to Eighty years – he was there for quite old and Weak – But is young and Strong in The other World where he went to.

I am also sorry that Miss Pierce died so suddenly and most on her Brothers Wedding day – She was a very nice young Lady – and I wished She had lived longer here in this World to enjoy her Musical talent – which She possessed – I hear Capt Pierce has been home on a Short Furlough – and has taken his young Wife /

with him to old Virginia to enjoy the happy Reunion together here in front of the Enemy - It gives him like a good opportunity to see something of the Warfare & the beautiful Hills and Mountains also to enjoy the nice Climate which We have here this Winter. I see that Almira my Wife does not write often to her Sister Mary — It is the same with me I get very few Letters from her - the last time I heard of her was on the 25th December last Christmas day - I have not heard of her since but I expect a Letter from her every day now - The last time I heard of her. She was very Well and Anna was smart —; We have a very fine Winter here - We had very little Snow so far, it was in the beginning of the new Year as We had a Snowy day and covered the ground Two inches - but soon melted again it was also very Cold the same time - but since the 5th inst: We had allways fine days and splendet Nights indeed it was so Warm to day like in Summer - We Enjoy very nice time in our good Winter Quarters the Boys are all Well and in good Spirits - Eager for the Spring Campaign - Our Battery is a four Gun Battery now - but I hope while Capt: John Bigelow is in Boston - We may get some Recruits to fill the Battery up again - We were also laid off

Ms.A.9.2.32.5

about Horses — a good many died — a few days ago We Shot Eight — But We have Recieved Twenty new ones to day — they are all large and Strong fine Horses — We Expect 15 more like them — We have not drilled any this Winter — but have been busy to build Stockades — Cook house Store house and a nice Stable for our Horses — it looks very Clean and neat in our Camp — there is plenty of Hay and Oats now — do our Horses feel good — We Exercise them every Morning I rode this Morning a new Horse — he is quite Spunky I have a good deal to Worke about them — on account Sergt Baker being Sickly — I take it for a pleasure for I like Horses very much —

We had a Review for Gen Meade one time I wrote to you about forty Batterys were present — Yesterday We had a Mounted Inspection for Capt Heart who is at present on Staff of Col Ritchen Commanding the Reserve Artillery — Capt Heart knows us very well for he was with his Battery with us in the first at Fitzbury — we went together in — He did not inspect us very sharp he knows We are all greats fighting Heroes — who he loves for he is one himself — he looked only at the Horses — and laughed to the Men — bids us to go into our Quarters —

Jan 25, 64

2

I hope my Letter will reach you, before you leave Weymouth for Staten Island. N. Y.
I wish you remember me to Mr. Weston and Mrs. Weston I can not forget the nice present Mr. Weston made me at Fort Pemaey Da. last Winter - the Cigars smell yet to me rich when I think of it - it is about a year now as I saw Mr. Weston. Miss Anna and Miss Emma. Field how quick a year does pass. I have been Eighteen Month's now in the U. S. Service - am therefore on the top of the hill - I expect to run down faster than I got up - with the hope to take the back bone of the Rebellion with me.
I wish you give my Remembrance to the Childern - I suppose Miss Bermuda is quite a Lady now, has Wabey got his Pony yet? - I remember them all and think very often of them.

20

3

I shall write to Mrs. Weston – I mean to our Mrs. Weston of Weymouth – as soon as I get my Box –

I hope that all the things in the Box are rubbed, and in good Condition so to give a good account of it –

Hoping that you will have much pleasure on your Journey and a safe Return to Weymouth – with my kind regards to Mrs. Weston and to all the Family. ——

I am with much Esteem and Faith Your friend

Augustus Kelsoe

MS.A.9.2.32.5